TALES FROM THE TOMB

Sept. 1969 35¢

FEATURING

THREE TIMES DEAD!

THE CORPSE CAME HOME!

PLUS OTHER SHOCKING TALES FROM THE TOMB!

TO ALL OUR GORE-DRIPPING, GHOULISH MONSTER-LOVERS: START A "YE-ECH-CHY"

HORROR PICTO-FICTION COLLECTION

Here's your golden opportunity to start a spine-chilling, terror-gripping, picto-fiction weirdo collection of the finest horror tales ever published in the world.

Get in on this "grave-bottom" offer, and—Who knows?—your startling, ghoulish, picto-fiction collection may be worth a small fortune as the bloody years roll by!

RUSH COUPON BELOW!

FOR CREEPY GHOULS ONLY

$1.00

POT-LUCK SPECIAL:

ANY 4 BACK ISSUES IN OUR FILES: $1.00! (We will send you what we have on hand, you lucky ghouls! Ye-ech-chy!)

EERIE PUBLICATIONS, INC.
222 Park Avenue South
New York, N. Y. 10003

ENTER MY SUBSCRIPTION FOR (Check box below.):

☐ WEIRD (1 yr—5 issues): $1.50 ☐ TERROR TALES (1 yr—5 issues): $1.50

☐ TALES OF VOODOO (1 yr—5 issues): $1.50 ☐ $1.00 POT LUCK SPECIAL (Any 4 back issues.)

ENCLOSED, FIND (check or money order) for: $ .....

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

TALES FROM THE TOMB

CONTENTS FOR SEPT., 1969 Vol. 1, No. 7

THREE TIMES DEAD 4

A deadly tale of two lonely women and a one-armed bum in a decaying mansion somewhere in Georgia. A real "weirdo" that will curl your spine.

DEADLY PICKUP 12

Never, never pick up a stranger, even one who's drowning in her own blood! She might drag you down! "Gulp!" Splash! Gurgle! Ee-ee-ee.

FANGS OF FEAR 17

Night after night, he frequented the stinking, garbage-strewn streets, drooling at the anticipation of his grim appointment with the unknown. Ye-ech-ch.

CRY FROM THE COFFIN 22

Fate sneaks up and stabs you in the back! Then the fiends pin a D.O.A. card on you. Only you know the horrible difference — you are not dead on arrival! Aw, shaddup and go to sleep, you corpse you!

FATAL SCALPEL 28

Hatred brooded like a poisonous spider in Dr. Harding's brain till it snapped! Nurse, quick the anaesthesia! You haven't got any?! Oy Veh!

THE CORPSE CAME HOME 35

What would you do if you saw your dead wife come back from her smelly tomb to haunt you? Ye-ech! Something stinks! Close that grave!

THEY COULDN'T DIE! 40

She was flawless and led him to a horror that was worse than death!

THE MADNESS OF TERROR 47

Waring was a murderer who thought his secret was safe! Suddenly he found himself hounded to the brink of madness by the eerie voice from the tomb! Quiet . . . Listen . . . it's the voice again! help!

Carl Burgos, Editor . . . Irving Fass, Art Director

Ezra Jackson, Art Editor

TALES FROM THE TOMB, SEPT. 1969, VOL. 1, NO. 7, IS PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY EERIE PUBLICATIONS, INC., 222 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10003. THE PUBLISHER ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNSOLICITED MATERIAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS LIVING OR DEAD IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. COPYRIGHT UNDER UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTIONS. INDIVIDUAL COPY PRICE 35¢. APPLICATION TO MAIL AT SECOND CLASS RATES IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, N. Y. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

THREE TIMES DEAD!

MY NAME IS TOM PHIPPS, AND I WAS JUST OUT OF THE HOSPITAL IN NEW ORLEANS, WHERE I'D FALLEN UNDER A TRAIN IN THE YARDS, AND LOST AN ARM! I WAS BROKE AND BITTER—AND HUNGRY! I'D BUMMED MY WAY UP INTO GEORGIA, BUT NOBODY WANTED TO HIRE A ONE-ARMED MAN... SO ONE NIGHT, AS IT WAS GETTING DARK, I FOUND MYSELF STRANDED ON A LONELY BACK ROAD...

I SAW THE DOG IN TIME TO PICK UP A STICK...

GET AWAY, YOUR CUR! GET BACK!

GRRRRRR

BUT THAT HOUND WAS BIG AND MEAN! I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE...

HEY! HELP! HELP ME, SOMEONE! YOU MANGY— GAAAAA—

THE BEAST WAS ABOUT TO TEAR MY THROAT OUT, WHEN I HEARD A WOMAN'S VOICE...
TIGER! STOP IT, TIGER! OFF, BOY, OFF! TIGER!
G-GOING TO KILL ME!
GRRRR-RR
EVEN AS SHE BEAT THE DOG AWAY, I SAW THAT SHE WAS PRETTY...
TIGER! YOU BRUTE! NOW YOU STAY AWAY— GET!
SOME HOUND, MISS! HE'S WELL NAMED— TIGER! ALMOST KILLED ME!
I'M SO SORRY! BUT THIS IS A LONELY SPOT, AND TIGER IS OUR ONLY PROTECTION! HE THINKS EVERYONE IS AN ENEMY!
HE KNOWS HIS JOB! WHEWWW—
SOMEHOW WE WERE WALKING TOWARD THE HOUSE TOGETHER! WITH ME, KEEPING AN EYE ON THAT HOUND— AND HIM KEEPING AN EYE ON ME...
I'M EMMY BAXTER! I, WE, LIVE HERE ALONE!
WE?
MY OLDER SISTER BETH, AND MYSELF! BUT WON'T YOU COME IN AND CLEAN UP, AND HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT, MR. .....?
PHIPPS! TOM PHIPPS! I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH! I, ER, I WAS HITCH-HIKING!
SHE WAS PRETTY, AND SHE WAS KIND, BUT I SAW HER LOOK AT MY EMPTY SLEEVE...
I SEE! WELL, MR. PHIPPS, I'M SURE YOU COULD USE SOME HAM AND HOT BISCUITS! BETH IS A MARVELOUS COOK!
THANKS, MISS BAXTER! I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT A... I'M HUNGRY!
5

I WAS HUNGRY, ALL RIGHT, BUT WHAT I SAW TOOK MY APPETITE AWAY...

BETH, THIS IS MR. PHIPPS! HE'S HAVING DINNER WITH US!

GOOD! WE ALWAYS LIKE COMPANY, MR. PHIPPS!

HUH? OH—THANKS!

SHE WAS THE UGLIEST LITTLE WOMAN I'D EVER SEEN! SOMETHING TERRIBLE, MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO HER TO GIVE HER THAT HUNCHBACK AND SCARRED FACE! SHE WAS ABOUT FOUR FEET TALL...

MORE BISCUITS, MR. PHIPPS?

UHH—YES, PLEASE! THEY'RE DELICIOUS!

I TOLD YOU BETH WAS A GOOD COOK!

WHEN DINNER WAS OVER, THEY WENT OFF AND STARTED WHISPERING! I ROLLED A CIGARETTE, AND FIDGETED UNDER THE HUNGRY STARE OF THE HOUND...

QUEER SETUP HERE! WHAT IN THE HECK ARE THEY WHISPERING ABOUT DOWN THERE? I BETTER GET MOVING!

I SOON FOUND OUT...

WE NEED A HIRED MAN, MR. PHIPPS! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STAY?

PLEASE STAY!

WELL, I DON'T KNOW! YOU CAN SEE THAT—THAT I'VE ONLY GOT ONE ARM!

I STAYED! LATER EMMY BAXTER, SHOWED ME MY ROOM...

I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU ABOUT BETH! SHE HAD AN ACCIDENT AS A CHILD! SHE WAS BADLY BURNED AND CRIPPLED! AND, WELL, SHE IS—RETARDED!

I'M SORRY, MISS BAXTER!

SHE MEANS THE OLD GIRL'S NUTTY!

I HOPE YOU LIKE IT HERE—TOM! GOOD-NIGHT!

I THINK I WILL—EMMY! GOOD NIGHT!

ALONG TOWARD MORNING, SOMETHING WOKE ME! A STEALTHY SOUND OF FEET...
HUH! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE OUTSIDE MY DOOR!

SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS SETUP ALL RIGHT! MAYBE I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT IT IS, RIGHT NOW!

I WAS AFRAID IT WAS THE HOUND, BUT INSTEAD I SAW EMMY WALKING IN HER SLEEP...
EMMY! SHE'S LIABLE TO HURT HERSELF!

THAT WINDOW! SHE'LL FALL SURE IF I DON'T STOP HER!

I GOT HER JUST IN TIME...
EMMY! WAKE UP, EMMY! WANT TO KILL YOURSELF?
OHHHH!

YOU SURE WERE, EMMY! YOU SCARED ME! ONE MORE STEP...
WHAT—I— OH, I WAS WALKING IN MY SLEEP AGAIN!

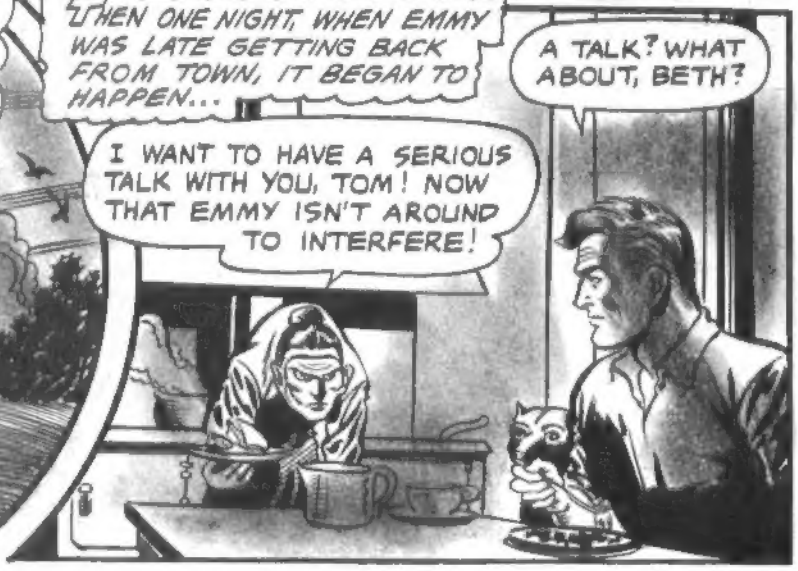
DON'T ASK ME HOW IT HAPPENED! IT JUST DID! SUDDENLY SHE WAS IN MY ARMS AND I WAS KISSING HER AND SHE KISSED ME BACK...
TOM, OH, TOM! THIS IS WRONG!
NO, EMMY! IT'S RIGHT! I KNEW IT THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU! I LOVE YOU, EMMY!

WE TALKED FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE SHE WENT BACK TO HER ROOM...
GOOD NIGHT, DARLING! SEE YOU IN THE MORNING! SWEET DREAMS!
GOOD NIGHT, EMMY!

I FELT A COLD SPOT GROW IN MY BACK! THEN I KNEW THAT BETH WAS WATCHING ME, HAD SEEN THE WHOLE THING...
SPYING! I'LL HAVE TO GET EMMY OUT OF THIS HOUSE!

NEXT MORNING I GOT RIGHT TO WORK, TRYING TO EARN MY KEEP...
GOOD MORNING, TOM! SLEEP WELL? I THOUGHT I HEARD NOISES LAST LAST!
I DIDN'T HEAR A THING, MISS BETH!
SHE SAW ME! WHAT KIND OF GAME IS SHE PLAYING?

A WEEK PASSED AND BETH NEVER LET ON THAT SHE KNEW EMMY AND I WERE IN LOVE...
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY SHE STARES AT EMMY AND ME! IF ONLY EMMY WOULD MARRY ME AND COME AWAY!


THEN ONE NIGHT, WHEN EMMY WAS LATE GETTING BACK FROM TOWN, IT BEGAN TO HAPPEN...
I WANT TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH YOU, TOM! NOW THAT EMMY ISN'T AROUND TO INTERFERE!
A TALK? WHAT ABOUT, BETH?

HER EYES WERE LIKE GLASS MARBLES, SORT OF CRAZY, AND HER WORDS WERE OUT OF THIS WORLD...
I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME, TOM! I'LL SEND EMMY AWAY AND WE'LL LIVE HERE, JUST THE TWO OF US!
WHAT! M-MARRY YOU?
I DID A CRAZY THING MYSELF—I LAUGHED AT THE POOR LITTLE FOOL! THAT WAS A MISTAKE...
MARRY YOU, BETH! OH-HA-HAH! BETH! YOU KILL ME, REALLY!
YOU LAUGH AT ME, TOM PHIPPS?
GRRRR-
YOU LAUGHED! ALL RIGHT, TOM, YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! BUT DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET EMMY! YOU WON'T! YOU'LL TAKE ME OR NOBODY! YOU'LL SEE — JUST WAIT! Y-YOU ONE-ARMED FOOL!
BETH LEFT ME THEN, BUT TIGER MUST HAVE SENSED WHAT HAD HAPPENED! HE WANTED TO KILL ME...
DOWN, YOU BRUTE! STAY AWAY FROM ME OR I'LL BRAIN YOU! GET AWAY!
GRRR-RRR-
WHEN EMMY GOT BACK FROM SHOPPING IN TOWN, I TOLD HER WHAT HAD HAPPENED...
SHE'S CRAZY, EMMY! REALLY CRAZY! YOU'VE GOT TO FACE IT!
I—I KNOW! BUT SHE'S MY OWN SISTER, TOM! WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER! WHAT CAN I DO?
I TOLD EMMY WHAT SHE HAD TO DO! TOO LATE I SAW THE SHADOW...
PUT BETH IN A STATE INSTITUTION?
YES! AT ONCE! I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!
BETH—LISTENING ON THE STAIRS!

NEXT DAY I DROVE EMMY'S CAR INTO TOWN AND TALKED TO THE AUTHORITIES! IT WAS LATE WHEN I GOT BACK...
HELLO, BETH! WHERE'S EMMY?
NOT HERE, TOM! SHE LEFT THIS AFTERNOON WHILE YOU WERE GONE!

GONE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN — GONE?
I —(CHUCKLE) —SAID SHE WOULD NEVER GO WITH YOU! I SENT HER TO MY COUSIN IN MEMPHIS, TOM PHIPPS! YOU'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN! HA-HA-HA!

I KNEW SHE WAS LYING! BUT WHEN I GOT TO EMMY'S ROOM, ALL HER THINGS WERE GONE...
BUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE GONE! SHE WOULDN'T, NOT WITHOUT TELLING ME!

BETH KEPT TO HERSELF AFTER THAT! I WAITED UNTIL SHE HAD GONE TO BED...
I'VE GOT TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE HOUSE! IT'S CRAZY, WHAT I'M THINKING, BUT I'VE GOT TO KNOW!

WHEN I REACHED THE KITCHEN I HEARD IT — AND THEN I KNEW...
OWWWW
TIGER! IN THE CELLAR! H- HOWLING LIKE A BANSHEE! NO — NO — DON'T LET IT BE!
10

I THINK I HAD KNOWN ALL ALONG, BUT NOW MY HEART TURNED TO ICE AND I COULDN'T GET AIR INTO MY LUNGS! EMMY —
EMMY! TIGER FOUND HER! S-SHE'S UNDER THAT DIRT!
OWWWW
12

I WENT CRAZY THEN! FOR SOME REASON, THE HOUND DIDN'T ATTACK ME, AS I TOOK EMMY'S POOR BODY FROM THE GRAVE...
OWWWW-
THAT MURDERING OLD WITCH! I'LL GET HER! I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!
BETH WAS NOT IN HER ROOM—AND THEN A FIENDISH PLAN CAME TO ME...
OUT PROWLING SOMEWHERE! GOOD! I'LL FIX A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR HER!
I MADE MY PREPARATIONS AND WAITED! SOON BETH CAME BACK, READY FOR BED...
GOOD! SHE HAS NO LIGHT AND THERE IS NONE IN THE ROOM! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT!
THEN IT CAME A HORRIBLE SOUND...
DON'T LIKE IT, BETH? CRAWLING INTO BED WITH THE CORPSE OF THE WOMAN YOU MURDERED?
EEEEEEEEEEE
I HAD MY REVENGE ALL RIGHT! THE PLAN HAD WORKED PERFECTLY...
SHE'S DEAD, TOO! TOO MUCH FOR HER BLACK HEART!
I HAD FORGOTTEN ONLY ONE THING — TIGER...
GRRRR!
GGGGAAAA-
The End

DEADLY PICKUP

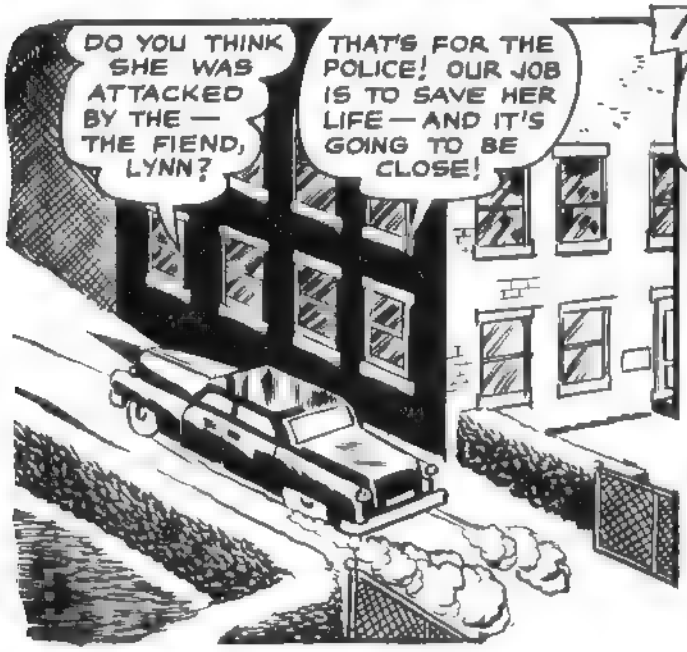
NEVER — NEVER — NEVER PICK UP A STRANGER! BOTH OF THEM KNEW THAT! YET, WHEN THE STRANGER WAS A PRETTY GIRL, DYING IN HER OWN BLOOD, WHAT COULD THEY DO? AND HOW COULD THEY GUESS THE HORRIBLE FATE THAT LAY IN WAIT? BUT AT LEAST THEY COULDN'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE, BECAUSE WHEN YOU ARE DEAD, YOU CAN'T STOP FOR THE **STRANGER IN THE DARK...**

IT'S A GIRL! PROBABLY SOME HIT AND RUN DRIVER!
OR THE ESCAPED LUNATIC! MAYBE HE...

IS SHE ALIVE?
JUST BARELY! A TERRIBLE WOUND IN HER CHEST! SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!
OOOOOO—

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE! WE'LL TAKE HER TO MY PLACE! IT'S CLOSER THAN THE HOSPITAL, AND TIME IS PRECIOUS!
THEN HURRY! I'LL DRIVE!

HOW IS SHE NOW? S-STILL ALIVE?
I'VE STOPPED THE BLEEDING, BUT HER HEART IS VERY WEAK! CAN'T YOU GO FASTER, BABY? DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE LAW!


DO YOU THINK SHE WAS ATTACKED BY THE — THE FIEND, LYNN?
THAT'S FOR THE POLICE! OUR JOB IS TO SAVE HER LIFE — AND IT'S GOING TO BE CLOSE!

MINUTES LATER...
IF SHE LIVES, SHE'LL BE LUCKY! LUCKY THAT YOU FOUND HER, DARLING, AND THAT YOU LIVE SO CLOSE!
AND LUCKY THAT I DATE MY NURSE AFTER OFFICE HOURS, TOO!! BETTER GET SOME WHOLE BLOOD NOW!

BLAST IT, MARY, WHERE ARE THE RUBBER GLOVES? I HAVEN'T A PAIR THAT'S STERILE!
YOU USED THE LAST PAIR THIS AFTERNOON! SHOULD BE SOME IN THE STORAGE ROOM!

GOOD GIRL! I'LL GET A PAIR AND BE RIGHT BACK! HOW DOES SHE LOOK?
I THINK HER COLOR IS BETTER, BUT HURRY!

THAT CHEST WOUND — VERY ODD! WONDER WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT? THAT FIEND — LUNATIC — NEVER ATTACKED ANYONE THAT WAY BEFORE! BUT MAYBE HE'S CHANGING HIS METHODS! AH, THE GLOVES...
GLOVES STERILE

MEANTIME, MARY HITCHCOCK REPLENISHES THE SUPPLY OF WHOLE BLOOD...
POOR THING! HER VEINS WERE ALMOST EMPTY! I'LL NEED AT LEAST ANOTHER BOTTLE...

AS SHE TURNS...
I'LL TAKE THAT!
NOW — EEEEEEEE—
WHOLE BLOOD

OH — NO — PLEASE! AAAAAHHHHHH —
GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S MARY SCREAMING! THE LUNATIC! MUST BE IN THE HOUSE!
GLOVES STERILE

HE BURSTS IN ON A TABLEAU OF HORROR...
HEAVENS! HE GOT MARY! CAME IN THE WINDOW, ATTACKED HER, AND LEFT! DIDN'T HARM THE OTHER GIRL! BUT MAYBE I CAN STILL SAVE MARY...

BUT MOMENTS LATER, WITH A HEAVY HEART, HE CALLS THE POLICE...
THIS IS DOCTOR WILLIS, 314 SUTHERLAND DRIVE! COME AT ONCE, PLEASE! THAT LUNATIC HAS JUST MURDERED MY NURSE! AND I HAVE ANOTHER VICTIM HERE!
THE FIEND? WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE, DOCTOR!
HOURS LATER...
YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE GIRL, OFFICER? I DARE NOT MOVE HER TO A HOSPITAL YET! MAYBE TOMORROW! BUT RIGHT NOW...
SURE, DOCTOR! AND I'M — SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE NURSE! BUT WE'LL GET THAT MONSTER FOR THIS! AND THERE'LL BE A GUARD AROUND THE HOUSE!
AS HE RENEWS HIS FIGHT TO SAVE A GIRL'S LIFE...
IRONIC! I LOSE MY GIRL TRYING TO SAVE ANOTHER ONE! IF ONLY WE HADN'T STOPPED — BUT I CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT! I'M A DOCTOR!
BUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY A STRANGE THING HAPPENS...
OHHH — I — WHO — WHERE AM I? W-WHO ARE YOU?
HUH! SHE — SHE'S TRYING TO GET UP! BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE EVER RECOVERED THIS QUICKLY FROM SUCH A TERRIBLE WOUND!
THIS PLACE! SO YOU MUST BE A D-DOCTOR? YOU FOUND ME ON THE ROAD?
YES! BUT YOU MUSTN'T TALK, PLEASE! YOU'RE TERRIBLY HURT, LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!
BLOOD? OH, YES, I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW! H-HE TOOK ME TO THAT LONELY PLACE! HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
WHAT? YOU CAN REMEMBER ALREADY? YOU KNOW WHO DID THIS TO YOU? THEN MAYBE YOU CAN HELP THE POLICE! I'LL CALL THEM, AND...

BUT AS HE STARTS FOR THE DOOR...
NO, PLEASE! NOT THE POLICE! NOT YET! I—I'M SO THIRSTY!
I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE POLICE ARE HERE NOW, JUST OUTSIDE! AND, REALLY, YOU MUST NOT EXERT YOURSELF! YOUR WOUND...

PLEASE! LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED FIRST! BEFORE I PASS OUT AGAIN!
WELL—THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA! BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE TALKING AT ALL!

THIS MAN HATED ME! HE TOOK ME TO THAT PLACE! HE HAD A SHARP STICK WITH HIM!
A SHARP STICK! YOU MEAN HE STABBED YOU WITH IT? WHAT MAN?

MY HUSBAND! HE SHOVED THE SHARP STICK AT MY HEART!
GOOD HEAVENS! BUT WAIT— THE ESCAPED LUNATIC ISN'T MARRIED!

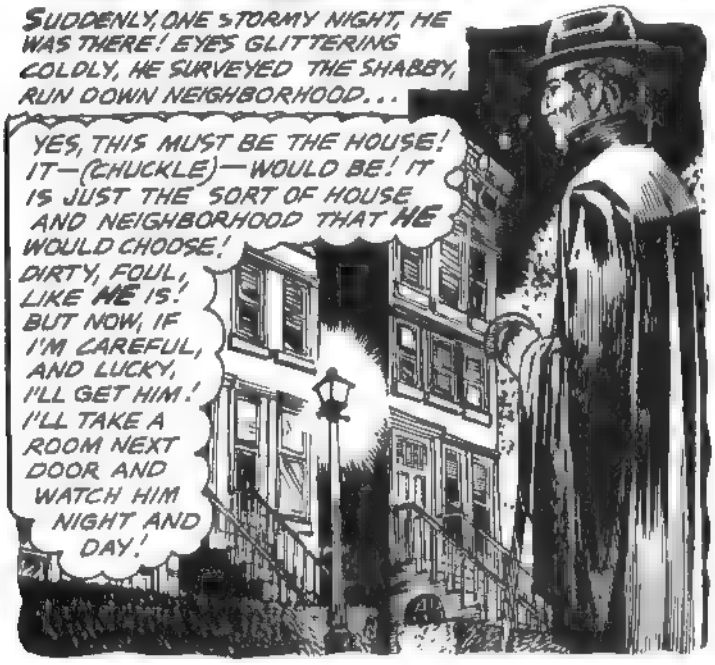
LUNATIC? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT! ALL I KNOW IS THAT MY HUSBAND FOUND OUT ABOUT ME!
FOUND OUT— OH, I SEE! NOW JUST YOU TAKE IT EASY, MY DEAR, AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING!
SHE'S RAVING! TEMPORARILY OUT OF HER MIND! HAVE TO HUMOR HER!

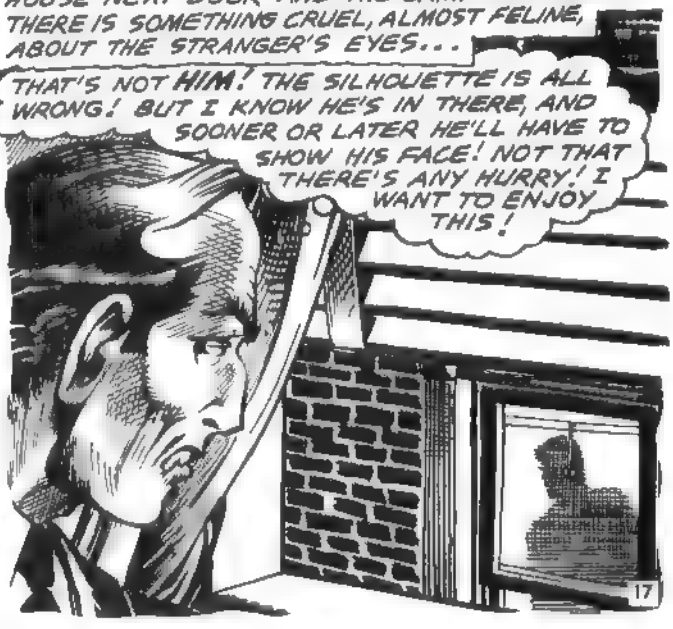
BUT HE MISSED MY HEART, THE FOOL! NEXT THING I REMEMBER WAS WAKING UP HERE! THERE WAS A GIRL, AND BLOOD, AND I WAS SO TERRIBLY THIRSTY...
A GIRL! MARY! AND YOU WERE THIRSTY! OH— NO!

YES! I'M A VAMPIRE!
YAAAAAAAA—
The End

WHAT STRANGE AND TERRIBLE MISSION BROUGHT THE SINISTER STRANGER TO TOWN? WHO WAS HE, WHENCE DID HE COME, WHAT DID HE WANT? BUT THE STRANGER WASN'T TALKING—HE KEPT TO HIMSELF, ALWAYS WATCHFUL, ALWAYS WAITING! TALL, GRIM, AUSTERE, THE PARCHMENT OF HIS FACE AS YELLOW AS AN ANCIENT SKULL, HE WAS A MAN WHO WAS DEDICATED TO **DEATH!** NIGHT AFTER NIGHT HE FREQUENTED THE SORDID PARTS OF THE CITY, THE STINKING, GARBAGE STREWN STREETS WHERE THE RATS, HUMAN AND OTHERWISE, PROWLED IN A DEADLY SEARCH FOR PREY! THEN ONE BLEAK NIGHT, THE STRANGER FOUND WHAT HE SOUGHT AND, AT LAST, HE KEPT HIS **GRIM APPOINTMENT...**

FANGS of FEAR



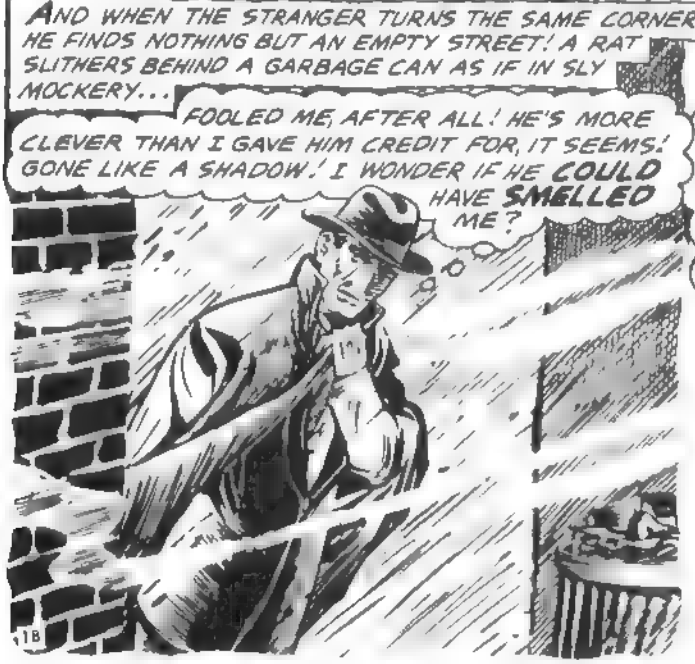


AND THEN ONE DAY, THE STRANGER SEES HIS QUARRY LEAVE THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR! HIMSELF UNSEEN, UNSUSPECTED, HE WATCHES FROM A DARKENED WINDOW AS A SMALL, RODENT-LIKE MAN SCURRIES FURTIVELY INTO THE WINDY NIGHT...

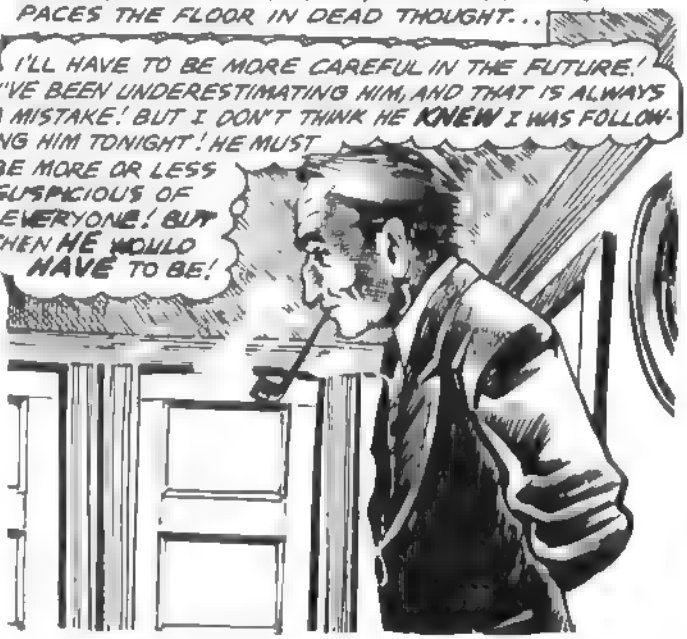
STEALTHILY—SLIPPING THROUGH THE TURGID NIGHT LIKE A GREAT CAT, THE STRANGER FOLLOWS THE LITTLE MAN THROUGH EMPTY AND WIND SWEPT STREETS...

STEP BY STEP, INTO AN EVEN POORER SECTION OF THE CITY WHERE EVEN THE HOUSES SEEM TO BE LISTENING FOR THE SOUNDS OF MURDER, THE STRANGER FOLLOWS! BOTH MEN ARE NOW SOAKED BY THE WIND-LASHED RAIN...

AND WHEN THE STRANGER TURNS THE SAME CORNER, HE FINDS NOTHING BUT AN EMPTY STREET! A RAT SLITHERS BEHIND A GARBAGE CAN AS IF IN SLY MOCKERY...



LATER, IN HIS DINGY ROOM, THE STRANGER PACES THE FLOOR IN DEAD THOUGHT...

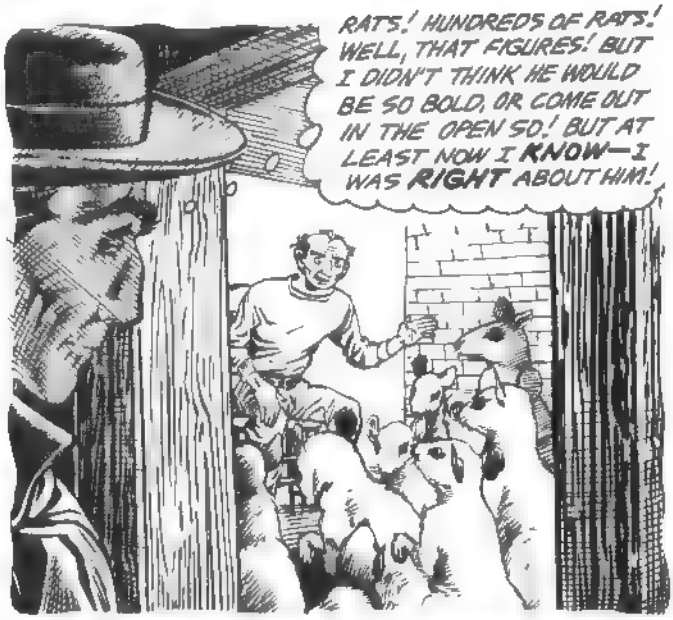


A FEW NIGHTS LATER, AND ONCE MORE THE CHASE BEGINS! THIS TIME THE STRANGER IS MORE CAREFUL! HE IS NO MORE THAN A SHADOW MINGLING WITH THE OTHER SINISTER SHADOWS...

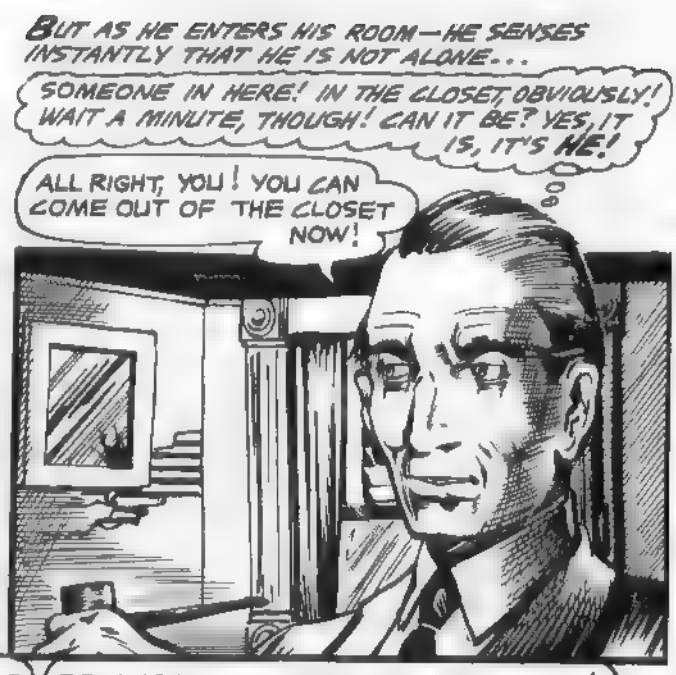
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE SUSPICIOUS TONIGHT! AND IF HE **WERE** SUSPICIOUS, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TRIED TO LOSE ME BEFORE NOW! HAH—MAYBE **THIS** IS THE NIGHT!

SO, HE LEADS ME TO THIS OLD WAREHOUSE, AND NOW HE'S GOING DOWN THROUGH THAT TRAP-DOOR! HMM—WE MUST BE RIGHT OVER THE WATER! I CAN HEAR TUGS OUT IN THE BAY, AND THERE IS THE SOUND OF WATER WASHING AROUND PILES! YES, WE'RE GETTING CLOSE!

I WAS RIGHT! WE'RE DOWN UNDER THE DOCKS NOW! AND THERE HE IS, JUST CROSSING THAT OPEN WATER! MOVES QUIETLY, TOO! HAH-HAH—**ALMOST** AS QUIETLY AS **I** DO! NOW, MY FURTIVE LITTLE FRIEND, WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE END OF THE TRAIL!

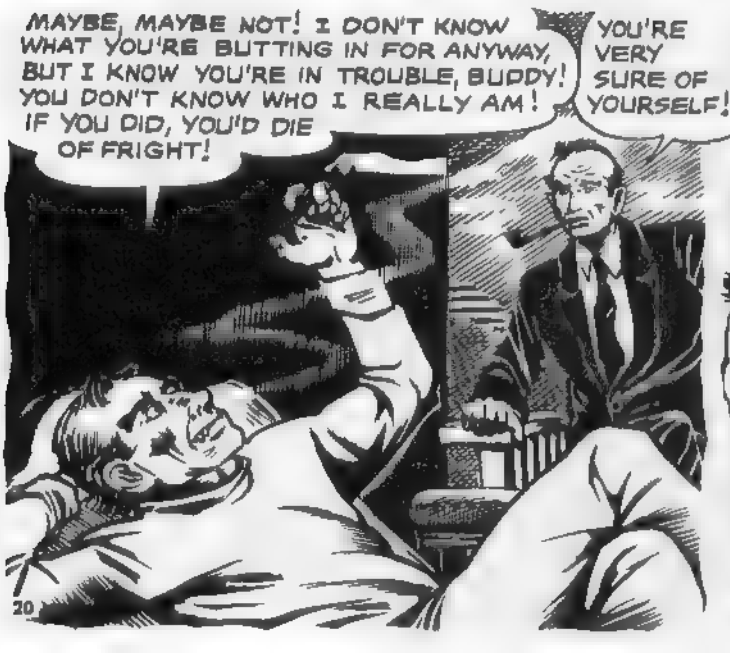


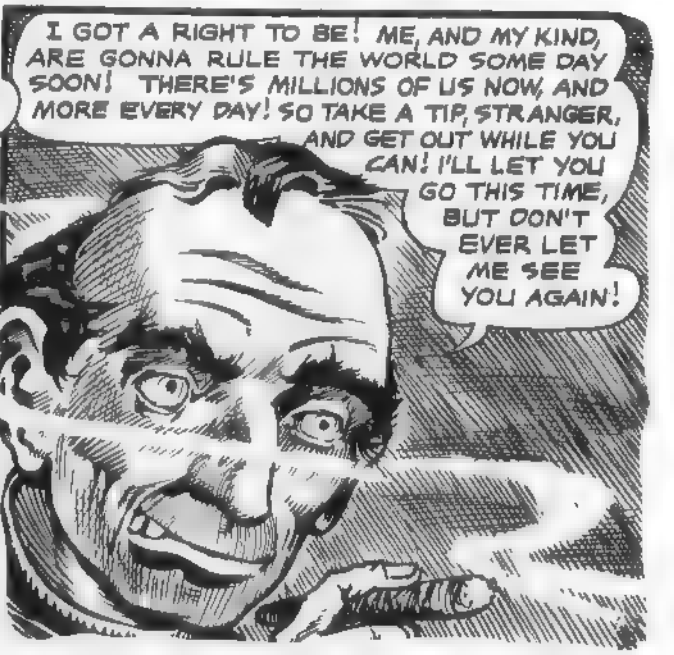
THE STRANGER GOES BACK TO HIS DISMAL HIDEOUT, A LOOK OF SLY SATISFACTION ON HIS FACE...
YES, HE MAY HAVE BEGUN TO SUSPECT BY NOW! BUT THE BEAUTY OF IT IS THAT HE CAN'T BE SURE! AS THE HUNTER I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE INITATIVE, TO DISGUISE MYSELF IN A WAY THAT HE CAN NEVER REALLY PENETRATE! BUT SOMEHOW I THINK OUR LITTLE DRAMA IS ALMOST PLAYED OUT!


BUT AS HE ENTERS HIS ROOM—HE SENSES INSTANTLY THAT HE IS NOT ALONE...
SOMEONE IN HERE! IN THE CLOSET, OBVIOUSLY! WAIT A MINUTE, THOUGH! CAN IT BE? YES, IT IS, IT'S HE!
ALL RIGHT, YOU! YOU CAN COME OUT OF THE CLOSET NOW!

AND AT LAST THEY MEET FACE TO FACE...
CLEVER OF YOU, WHOEVER YOU ARE! BUT WHY HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING ME? DON'T LIE, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU HAVE! TWICE NOW YOU'VE FOLLOWED ME! BUT TONIGHT I FOLLOWED YOU AND SLIPPED UP HERE BEFORE YOU!
HMM—I DID UNDERESTIMATE YOU, MY FRIEND! BUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE THAT I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU!

BECAUSE I SMELLED YOU, THAT'S WHY! YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT MY SENSE OF SMELL IS VERY ACUTE! MORE THAN YOU WOULD BELIEVE! ONLY THERE'S SOMETHING VERY PECULIAR ABOUT YOUR SMELL!
SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT MY SMELL, EH? YOU MEAN THAT YOU CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT? MAYBE I'VE PLANNED IT THAT WAY!


MAYBE, MAYBE NOT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BUTTING IN FOR ANYWAY, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, BUDDY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I REALLY AM! IF YOU DID, YOU'D DIE OF FRIGHT!
YOU'RE VERY SURE OF YOURSELF!


I GOT A RIGHT TO BE! ME, AND MY KIND, ARE GONNA RULE THE WORLD SOME DAY SOON! THERE'S MILLIONS OF US NOW, AND MORE EVERY DAY! SO TAKE A TIP, STRANGER, AND GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN! I'LL LET YOU GO THIS TIME, BUT DON'T EVER LET ME SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU'RE WRONG! YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL NEVER RULE THE WORLD WHILE I'M ALIVE! BECAUSE WE'LL KILL YOU AS FAST AS WE CAN! WE'LL HOLD YOU DOWN, AND, AT LAST WIPE YOU OUT!
HUH! YOU FOOL! SOMETHING AWFUL STRANGE ABOUT YOU! BUT YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHO I AM!
I ALREADY KNOW!
YEAH? WELL, NOW YOU CAN BE SURE! BECAUSE I'M THE KING OF THE RATS—AND I'M GONNA GNAW ON YOU!
AND I, MY RAT FRIEND, AM THE KING OF THE CATS! I DISGUISED MY SMELL, BUT YOU COULDN'T HIDE YOURS!
THE FIGHT IS SWIFT AND DEADLY...
YORWWWW—
GRRRRRRRR—
ARRRHHHH—
SO, HE IS DEAD AT LAST! AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS, I HAVE FOUND AND KILLED HIM! MY JOB IS DONE, FOR NOW! BUT THERE ARE OTHER RAT KINGS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD! THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEW ONE, A SHARP-FANGED, CUNNING GRAY RAT KING! MY SUBJECTS WILL HANDLE THE OTHERS, BUT I MUST KILL THE KINGS...
AND SO THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER LEAVES THE SHABBY NEIGHBORHOOD AND VANISHES INTO THE NIGHT...
I MUST GO TO LONDON AT ONCE! THERE IS—BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO...
THE END

CRY from the COFFIN

YOU'RE AN AVERAGE GUY ON A FINE SUMMER MORNING, THINKING ABOUT NOTHING BUT YOUR JOB AND HOW MUCH YOU LOVE YOUR BEAUTIFUL WIFE! THEN FATE SNEAKS UP AND STABS YOU IN THE BACK! YOU, OUT OF ALL THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD! **WHY?** WHY, YOU CRY IN ANGUISH, WHY YOU? AND THERE IS NO ANSWER! BUT BEHIND THAT DARK CURTAIN YOU HEAR THE LAUGHTER OF FIENDS, MOCKING YOU! YOU ARE HELPLESS, SO HELPLESS! AND THEY PIN THAT FATAL CARD ON YOU — D.O.A.! ONLY YOU KNOW THE HORRIBLE DIFFERENCE — YOU ARE **NOT DEAD ON ARRIVAL...**

NATURALLY YOU DON'T WATCH YOUR STEP TOO CLOSELY...

HEY, MISTER! BE CAREFUL! WATCH IT!

YES, MARY IS A SWELL GIRL — HUH! SOMEONE YELLING AT ME!

TOO LATE YOU LOOK UP TO SEE THE TRUCK BEARING DOWN ON YOU LIKE A JUGGERNAUT...

LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL! I'VE GOT THE LIGHT!

OH! THAT TRUCK — GOING TO H-HIT ME!

YOU LEAP BACKWARD, THE TRUCK MISSES YOU, BUT...

POOR GUY! I COULDN'T HELP IT!

AHHHHHHHH — MY HEAD!

A HORRIBLE THING HAPPENS! YOU ARE CONSCIOUS, YOU FEEL NO PAIN, BUT YOU CAN'T MOVE OR SPEAK...

POOR MAN! IS HE DEAD?

HE HIT HIS HEAD! IT KILLED HIM INSTANTLY!

AFRAID SO, LADY!

YOU HEAR AND SEE EVERYTHING, BUT YOU CANNOT EVEN BLINK YOUR EYES...

HMM — NO SIGN OF LIFE! NO BREATHING, EYES GLASSY! I WISH THAT AMBULANCE WOULD HURRY AND GET HERE!

NOW YOU BEGIN TO SUSPECT THE HORRIBLE TRUTH — YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A FREAK ACCIDENT...

COME ON, LOAD HIM IN! LET'S GET STARTED FOR THE MORGUE!

YEAH! ANOTHER ONE FOR THE MEAT WAGON!

NO STORY HERE, I GUESS!

CITY HOSPITAL

BUT THERE IS A STORY — IF THEY COULD ONLY KNOW...

THEY'RE TAKING ME TO THE MORGUE! BUT I'M NOT DEAD, YOU FOOLS! I'M NOT DEAD! STOP — LET ME OUT OF HERE!

CLANG-CLANG-CLANG-

NO, NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M ONLY PARALYZED, NOT DEAD!
YOU WANT TO FILL OUT THIS CARD, BEN? I DID THE LAST ONE!
SURE, GIMME!

DEAD ON ARRIVAL! THAT MAKES SIX THIS WEEK! SOME OF THESE GUYS WILL NEVER LEARN TO LOOK BEFORE THEY WALK ACROSS A STREET!
D.O.A.

YOU GROW COLD WITH HORROR AS YOU LISTEN TO THEIR CHATTER! IF YOU COULD ONLY MOVE...
YOU LIKE THE GIANTS THIS YEAR, BEN? MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A LITTLE BET, HUH? I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE TO THREE AND TAKE THE DODGERS!
I SWORE OFF BETTING! MY GIRL SAYS WE GOT TO SAVE TO GET MARRIED!

BASEBALL! GIRLS! AND HERE I AM! LOOK AT ME! PLEASE! EXAMINE ME CLOSELY! CAN'T YOU SEE? I'M NOT DEAD!

BUT TO THEM YOU ARE DEAD! THE BLOW HAS PARALYZED YOUR SPEECH CENTERS, YOUR BREATHING, EVERYTHING! ESPECIALLY YOU ARE DEAD...
CITY HOSPITAL
LET'S DUMP THIS STIFF AND GET SOMETHING TO EAT, HUH?
OKAY!
ENTRANCE TO MORGUE

AN ATTENDANT ROUGHLY DISROBES YOU...
I DO ALL THE WORK AROUND THIS PLACE! THE SOONER WE GET A UNION, THE BETTER!
CAN'T HE FEEL THAT I'M ALIVE? H-HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS GOING TO GO ON?

YOU ARE PUT ON A SLAB AND ROLLED INTO THE "COLD BOX"! YOU START TO SCREAM NOW, BUT NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU...
ANYONE SHOWED UP YET TO IDENTIFY THIS ONE YET?
NAW! BUT SOME DAME CALLED, SAID SHE WAS COMING DOWN!

FOR ONE MOMENT THE COLD EYES OF THE DOCTOR STARE DOWN INTO YOURS AND YOU KNOW THE DEPTHS OF TRUE TERROR...
WELL, OLD MAN, I HOPE YOU'LL PARDON THIS! ONLY SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY, YOU KNOW!
N-NO! DON'T DO IT! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T DO IT!
AND THEN THE SCALPEL RIPS YOU FROM STERNUM TO NAVEL...
THERE! A NICE CLEAN ENTRY, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
N-NO PAIN! T-THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT!
A LATERAL CUT AND YOUR RAW, BLEEDING VISCERA IS NAKED AND EXPOSED— STILL NO PAIN...
GEE, DOC, YOU'RE SURE CUTE WITH THAT KNIFE!
HE WAS A VERY SICK MAN, THIS ONE!
SICK! I WAS NOT, YOU FOOL! I NEVER HAD A SICK DAY IN MY LIFE UNTIL— UNTIL NOW! OH, WHAT IS HE DOING?
I THOUGHT SO! LOOK AT THAT HEART! I'LL BET HE NEVER GUESSED IT, EITHER!
GOT THE VAT OF PRESERVING FLUID READY? I WANT TO KEEP THIS SPECIMEN IN GOOD CONDITION— MIGHT WRITE A PAPER ON THIS!
HERE YOU ARE, DOC! ALL SET!
MY H-HEART!
LOOKS LIKE ANY OTHER HEART TO ME, DOC! HOW CAN YA TELL IT WAS BAD?
EASY ENOUGH! THE VALVES ARE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE! THIS FELLOW WOULD HAVE DROPPED DEAD ANY MOMENT! WORST HEART I EVER SAW!
SO I WAS GOING TO DIE ANYWAY! HAH— THAT'S NO CONSOLATION! HERE I AM, RIPPED OPEN, WITH NO HEART, AND STILL I CAN SEE, HEAR AND UNDERSTAND! MY BRAIN STILL WORKS! I'M AS ALIVE AS THEY ARE!
HERE YOU ARE, DOC! THIS STUFF WILL PRESERVE IT!
FINE! DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THIS!

THE "DAME" IS YOUR WIFE, MARY! WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND, BILL! THEY ROLL YOU OUT OF THAT FREEZING PLACE...
RECOGNIZE HIM, LADY?
OH! Y-YES, THIS IS MY HUSBAND!
YOU MUST BE BRAVE, DARLING!
YES! AT LEAST NOW I WON'T HAVE TO TELL HIM ABOUT US! THAT I WAS GOING TO LEAVE HIM AND GO AWAY WITH YOU, BILL! H-HE WOULD HAVE HATED THE IDEA OF A DIVORCE!
GOODBYE, MY DEAR! PERHAPS IT IS BETTER THIS WAY! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!
MARY!

YOU CAN HEAR CRUEL FATE LAUGHING AT YOU NOW! YOUR WIFE—AND BILL! YOU HAD NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED...
MARY! BILL! COME BACK! I'LL FORGIVE YOU ANYTHING! ONLY SEE, UNDERSTAND, TELL THEM I'M NOT DEAD!
COME, SWEETHEART! WE MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUNERAL!
Y-YES!
BUT NOW YOU HAVE ANOTHER WORRY! WHERE ARE THEY TAKING YOU?
THE DOC WANTS THIS ONE! I GUESS THE WIFE GAVE HER PERMISSION!
YEAH! SOME OF THE RELATIVES WON'T LET US DO IT!
WHAT?

THE DOC WILL HAVE A REAL TIME WITH THIS ONE! YOU EVER SEE THE LOOK HE GETS IN HIS EYE WHEN HE DOES AN AUTOPSY?
AUTOPSY! NO! NO! THEY CAN'T CUT ME UP!
BUT THEY CAN...
GET MY SCALPELS READY, HANK! THE SPREADERS, TOO! WHAT DID THIS ONE DIE OF?
TRUCK HIT HIM OR SOMETHING! FUNNY, TOO! HARDLY A MARK ON HIM!

THEY ROLL YOU OUT OF THE AUTOPSY ROOM, A GUTTED THING...
HERE'S YER STIFF BACK! WHERE YOU WANT IT?
JUST LEAVE IT! THE UNDERTAKER IS COMING TO GET THE CORPSE READY FOR THE FUNERAL!
STIFF! MUST THEY CALL ME THAT?
MORGUE
SOMEHOW YOUR BLOODLESS BRAIN STILL FUNCTIONS AS THEY TAKE YOU DOWN TO THE FUNERAL HOME...
HOW STRANGE TO ATTEND YOUR OWN FUNERAL THIS WAY! TO HEAR THE SERMON AND THE HYMNS! I HOPE THE PREACHER SAYS I WAS A GOOD MAN! I WAS, I HOPE!
C'MON! MOVE ALONG!
ELITE FUNERAL CO
AT LAST YOU ARE TAKEN TO THE CHAPEL! THE SMELL OF FLOWERS BANKED, THE SOUND OF THE ORGAN, THE VOICES OF YOUR FRIENDS! IF ONLY THEY COULD KNOW THE STRANGE AND HORRIBLE TRUTH— THAT YOU ARE THERE WITH THEM...
THE FLOWERS! SO MANY! I MUST HAVE MORE FRIENDS THAN I KNEW! AND THERE'S MARY—WITH BILL! BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT ANY LONGER!
THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS GATHER FOR A LAST LOOK...
FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND!
SOB—SOB!
S'LONG, BOY! I'M SORRY!
I WISH NOW I'D PAID THAT MONEY I OWED HIM!
THEN A TERRIBLE SOUND...
I'LL JUST CLOSE THE COFFIN AND WE'LL START FOR THE CEMETERY!
SCREEECH
SQUEAK—
SQUEAK—
THEY PUT YOUR COFFIN IN A MUDDY GRAVE AND YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF RETREATING FOOTSTEPS— THEY ARE GONE...
T-THAT'S ALL! I'M ALONE NOW! FOREVER!
AND AT LAST, WHEN IT IS TOO LATE, YOU FIND BREATH FOR ONE SCREAM...
AIIIIIIIIIIIIEEEEE—

FATAL SCALPEL

RELENTLESS HATRED BROODED LIKE A POISONOUS SPIDER IN THE BRAIN OF DR. ALEX HARDING! THEN ONE NIGHT HIS REASON SNAPPED AND HIS VENOM FASHIONED A TERRIBLE WEAPON IN THE JEALOUS BLADE...

BUT LATER, DOCTOR HARDING'S ACTIONS ARE STRANGE...
I HOPE ROGERS HAS SOMETHING FOR ME TODAY! I'M GOING CRAZY! I'VE GOT TO KNOW!
HE PROMISED IT TODAY!
BERNIE ROGERS
PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS
AND...
H-HELLO, ROGERS! DID Y-YOU GET IT?
HI, DOC! YEAH! I GOT WHAT YOU WANTED!
YOUR WIFE IS CHEATING ON YOU, ALL RIGHT! SHE'S BEEN SEEING A MAN NAMED VINCENT ROMEZ, A LATIN AMERICAN! BUT HE LEFT TOWN YESTERDAY!
SO IT'S TRUE! CATHERINE LOVES SOMEONE ELSE!
I-I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! SHE'S MUCH YOUNGER, OF COURSE, BUT I THOUGHT SHE LOVED ME!
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, DOC! MIGHT HAPPEN TO ANYONE! ANYWAY, THE GUY IS GONE NOW--I SAW HIM BOARD A PLANE!
YOU'RE SURE HE'S GONE THEN MAYBE SHE LL FORGET HIM! YES--SHE WILL! AND I'LL PRETEND THAT I DON'T KNOW--THAT IT NEVER HAPPENED!

WHEN HARDING LEAVES...
WHAT A CHUMP! I BETTER CALL CATHERINE AND TELL HER WHAT A DUMMY SHE MARRIED!
HI, BABY! I JUST TALKED TO YOUR HUSBAND! I GAVE HIM MY-- HAH-HAH-- REPORT!
DARLING! WHAT DID HE SAY? DID HE BELIEVE IT?
HE WENT FOR IT HOOK, LINE AND SINKER! HE THINKS YOU'VE BEEN SEEING A GUY NAMED VINCENT ROMEZ, WHO JUST LEFT TOWN! SO HE AIN'T GONNA SAY ANYTHING TO YOU! PRETTY SMART, EH?
YOU'RE A CLEVER DARLING! PUTTING HIM ONTO A FALSE TRAIL! SEE YOU SOON!
SO, AN HOUR LATER...
HELLO, DARLING! HAVE A NICE DAY?
NOT WITHOUT YOU, ALEX! I MISSED YOU!
WHILE EVEN THEN FATE IS STIRRING THE INGREDIENTS INTO THE POT-- FEAR... HATE... REVENGE... HORROR...
LOVELY! I'LL FORGIVE HER THIS TIME!
FOOL! I HATE HIM! IF ONLY HE WOULD DIE AND LEAVE ME HIS MONEY!
YEP, I'M PRETTY CLEVER! GUESS I'LL JUST HIC HAVE ONE FOR THE ROAD! AND TO DOC HARDING'S BEAUTIFUL WIFE! WHAT A CHUMP HE IS...

MINUTES LATER...
THAT FOOL! GONNA CRASH!
CAAA
AND...
YEAH -- BUT LOOK AT HIS FACE! UGH! CUT TO PIECES! MAKES ME SORT OF SICK!
HE'S ALIVE!
NEXT MORNING WHEN DOCTOR HARDING REACHES THE HOSPITAL...
AN EMERGENCY CASE, DOCTOR!
AUTO CRASH! HIS NAME IS BERNIE ROGERS!
ROGERS! BUT I...
DOCTOR HARDING
THE SHOCKING TRUTH COMES HOME TO HARDING...
HAH-HAH! I LOVE YOU, CATHERINE! BUT WHAT A DUMMY YOU MARRIED! HO-HO! HE BELIEVED THAT YARN ABOUT YOUR LATIN LOVER! WHILE ALL THE TIME IT'S YOU AND ME! HA-HA!
SO THAT'S IT! THIS MAN AND MY WIFE! I WAS A FOOL!
MINUTES LATER...
I SEE! I WON'T NEED YOU FOR A WHILE, NURSE!
HE'S STILL UNDER MORPHINE, DOCTOR! TALKS A LOT!

SOMETHING CRACKS IN HARDING'S BRAIN! HE GOES INSANE IN HIS DESIRE FOR REVENGE...
I WAS A FOOL! BUT NO LONGER! CHEAT ME, WILL THEY? MAKE A FOOL OF ME! WE'LL SEE WHO HAS THE LAST LAUGH!
HAH-HAH! IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT A MAN HAS SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE! AND WHAT A REVENGE!
AFTER THE OPERATION...
WHY, DOCTOR HARDING! TAKING YOUR TOOLS HOME?
YES! I'VE GOT A LITTLE-- HAH-HAH-- HOME WORK TO DO TONIGHT!
YES, A LITTLE HOME WORK! WITH MY DARLING CATHERINE, WHO LOVES ME SO! HAH-HAH!
CATHERINE HARDING KNOWS INSTINCTIVELY THAT SOMETHING HAS GONE HORRIBLY WRONG...
GOOD! NOBODY AROUND! NO ONE TO INTERRUPT ME! I'LL GET STARTED AT ONCE!
ALEX! W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME NOW?
IF YOU'RE DRESSING FOR BERNIE ROGERS, MY DEAR, YOU'D BETTER NOT! HE WON'T BE COMING TODAY!

B-BERNIE? ARE YOU CRAZY, ALEX? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
I MEAN THAT I'M NO LONGER A FOOL! YOUR LOVER IS IN THE HOSPITAL!
BERNIE! THE HOSPITAL! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
YOU'LL SEE, CATHERINE! BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DO THE SAME THING TO YOU! NOW!
A LITTLE ETHER SO YOU WON'T FEEL PAIN! UNTIL -HAH-HAH --LATER!
NO! GAAA--
THE DOCTOR ARRANGES A CRUDE OPERATING TABLE IN THE KITCHEN...
ABOUT READY! IN A MINUTE NOW, I'LL START MAKING YOUR NEW FACE, MY DEAR!
YOU DIDN'T WANT ME, DEAR CATHERINE! YOU WANTED HIM! SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR WISH! YOU TWO WILL NEVER LEAVE EACH OTHER WHEN I'M FINISHED!
HALF AN HOUR LATER...
DONE! NOBODY CAN EVER UNDO THIS WORK OF MINE! I'VE GOT ONE LAST THING TO DO!

AFTER A CALL TO THE POLICE...
ALMOST THROUGH NOW! ONE MORE THING!
YEAH! FIGURE THAT! THOSE TWO GOTTA GET MARRIED, OR NO DOUGH! AND HE ALSO OPERATED ON THE ROGERS GUY THIS MORNING! BEATS ME!
AND WHEN THE PUZZLED COPS ARRIVE...
HE MUST HAVE BEEN NUTS! HE DID THIS TO HER FACE-- THEN LEFT HER ALL HIS MONEY!
IF SHE MARRIES THIS BERNIE ROGERS GUY!
TODAY, IN THE DESOLATE MOUNTAINS, THERE IS AN OLD HOUSE WHERE LIVE A STRANGE MARRIED COUPLE! NO ONE EVER SEES THEIR FACES...
ANOTHER DAY GONE, BERNIE!
YES, CATHERINE!
AND THIS IS DOCTOR HARDING'S REVENGE!
THE END

The CORPSE CAME HOME!

IF HAVING TWO WIVES MAKES A MAN A BIGAMIST — THEN HARRY GREEN WAS A BIGAMIST! BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE WAS ENTIRELY INNOCENT! PUZZLE? NOT IF YOU KNEW THAT ONE WIFE WAS A PHANTOM, A WEIRD AND TERRIBLE BEING COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE TO HAUNT HER FORMER HUSBAND! BUT HIS PROBLEM WAS WHAT TO DO WITH THE UNWELCOME GUEST IN THE HAUNTED COTTAGE — BECAUSE THERE WERE **THREE IN A SHROUD...**

IN A GRAVEYARD NEAR THE HOME OF HARRY GREEN, THERE IS A HORRIBLE STIRRING IN THE DAMP EARTH! A GRAVE CRACKS OPEN...

I MUST FIND HARRY! I WILL GO TO HIM! HE MADE ME A PROMISE AND HE'S BROKEN IT!

HOW I REMEMBER THIS PATH! WE USED TO STROLL HERE TOGETHER WHEN I WAS ALIVE! BUT HE PROMISED ME THAT, IF I DIED, HE WOULD NEVER MARRY AGAIN! BUT HE DID — HE DID!

SOON THE GRISLY FIGURE OF THE CORPSE-WOMAN APPROACHES A LARGE COTTAGE THAT STANDS AT THE END OF A LANE...
HE IS IN THERE NOW WITH THAT WOMAN— WITH HIS NEW WIFE! HEE-HEE—HOW SURPRISED HE'S GOING TO BE WHEN HE SEES THAT I'VE COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE!
WHILE INSIDE, COZY BY THE FIRE, WHILE OUTSIDE THE NIGHT IS DANK AND THE WIND HOWLS LIKE A HUGE WOLF...
I FEEL SO NERVOUS TONIGHT, HARRY! AS IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE WERE GOING TO HAPPEN! AND THAT WIND FRIGHTENS ME...
RELAX, HONEY, RELAX! NO USE GETTING THE JITTERS OVER NOTHING! HOW ABOUT A GAME OF CHESS?
HEE-HEE — THERE HE IS, MY BELOVED HUSBAND! WITH THAT OTHER WOMAN! HAH— HIS PROMISE DIDN'T MEAN MUCH! I HADN'T BEEN IN MY GRAVE SIX MONTHS BEFORE HE MARRIED AGAIN!
BUT NOW I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE! I STILL LOVE HIM AND I'M GOING TO HAVE HIM! AND I DON'T WANT HER AROUND! HEE-HEE — JUST WAIT UNTIL HE OPENS THE DOOR!
SO HARRY GREEN OPENS THE DOOR AND THERE SHE IS—HIS FIRST WIFE, WHO HE HAD BELIEVED TO BE SNUG IN HER GRAVE...
THE MAN FEELS A THRILL OF TERROR AS THE COLD, GRAVE-ROTTED CATHY MOVES CLOSER...
YAAAAAAAA— CATHY! B—BUT HOW— Y-YOU'RE DEAD!
HELLO, DARLING! YOU LOOK FRIGHTENED! BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MY LOOKS, YOU KNOW!
WHY, DARLING, WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE SHIVERING! I KNOW I MUST LOOK BAD, DEAR, BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED!
GAAA— Y-YOU'RE "D-DEAD!"
OOOO— THIS IS HORRIBLE! IT C-CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

BUT IT IS HAPPENING! LATER THE CORPSE-WIFE JOINS THEM AT A NOT SO COZY LITTLE MEAL...
W-WE HAVE TO EAT! GO AHEAD, SUE! BUT Y-YOU, CATHY? I MEAN, YOU CAN'T...
NO, HARRY, DARLING! I DON'T HAVE TO EAT! BUT DON'T LET ME BOTHER YOU TWO — JUST GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YOUR DINNER! I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH YOU!
LATER, IN THE KITCHEN...
SHHH — DON'T LET HER HEAR US! I'VE GOT A PLAN — IF I CAN GET HER BACK TO THE GRAVEYARD SOME WAY...
BUT HOW? SHE'S POWERFUL, EVIL! A CORPSE FOR A YEAR AND STILL SHE CAN WALK AROUND!
NOW — NOW! IS THIS NICE? PLOTTING AGAINST ME ALREADY, WHEN I'VE JUST ARRIVED! ANYWAY, HARRY, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO! NOTHING! I HAVE STRANGE POWERS NOW — AND I'LL DO JUST AS I PLEASE!
AND WHEN BEDTIME COMES...
PLEASE, CATHY! Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SIT THERE ALL NIGHT, SURELY?
C-CAN'T YOU LEAVE US ALONE NOW? WE'RE IN YOUR POWER! WHAT CAN WE DO?
GO TO SLEEP! HAPPY DREAMS! I DON'T NEED SLEEP, OF COURSE, SO I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND KEEP WATCH! YOU WOULDN'T — (CHUCKLE) — WANT ANYTHING TO GET YOU?
BUT AS SOON AS THEY ARE ASLEEP...
NOW, YOU VIXEN! SUE! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU! YOU'LL NEVER STEAL ANOTHER WOMAN'S HUSBAND — EVEN AFTER SHE'S DEAD! BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
NOW! LIKE THIS! THIS PILLOW OVER YOUR NOSTRILS! YOU'LL SMOTHER, FIGHTING FOR AIR, FOR JUST ONE MORE BREATH OF SWEET, CLEAN AIR! SOON YOU'LL BE JUST LIKE ME! HEE-HEE-HEE...
EEEEEEE-
HARRY GREEN, AWAKENED BY HIS WIFE'S DEATH SCREAM, SEES THE TERRIBLE SIGHT...
CATHY! GREAT HEAVENS! W-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? SUE — SUE, MY DARLING!
HAH! YOUR DARLING? I WAS YOUR DARLING ONCE, REMEMBER? BUT LOOK AT HER NOW! DEAD! AS DEAD AS I AM!

HER HORRIBLE DEED OVER, THE GHOST OF CATHY DRIFTS OUT OF THE HOUSE LIKE EVIL MIST...

HEE-HEE! YOU CAN'T, HARRY, YOU CAN'T! ALL THAT IS PART OF MY PLAN!

CATHY! COME BACK! YOU DID THIS — NOW YOU MUST HELP ME! THE POLICE — HOW CAN I EXPLAIN?

NOTIFIED BY A SPECTRAL VOICE ON THE PHONE, PUZZLED POLICE VISIT THE COTTAGE AND FIND THE BODY OF SUE! HARRY GREEN IS ARRESTED FOR MURDER...

REAL NASTY CHARACTER, THIS GREEN! SHE NEVER HAD A CHANCE WITH THAT PILLOW ON HER FACE!

YES, IT'S OPEN AND SHUT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE DENIES IT! BUT WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW — WHO CALLED US AND GAVE US THE TIP?

AND LATER AT HIS TRIAL...

YOUR STORY, HARRY GREEN, IS THE MOST FANTASTIC LIE EVER HEARD IN THIS COURT! YOU SAY A **GHOST** MURDERED YOUR WIFE! BUT THE JURY HAS FOUND YOU GUILTY AND THEREFORE I MUST SENTENCE YOU TO DIE...

NO! PLEASE, YOUR HONOR! I TOLD THE TRUTH! SO HELP ME I DID! CATHY KILLED SUE, NOT ME!

AND IN DUE TIME THE LAW TAKES ITS COURSE! A SCREAMING MAN, STILL PROTESTING HIS INNOCENCE, IS TAKEN TO HIS DEATH IN A GRIM LITTLE ROOM...

COME ON NOW, GREEN, NO USE FIGHTING!

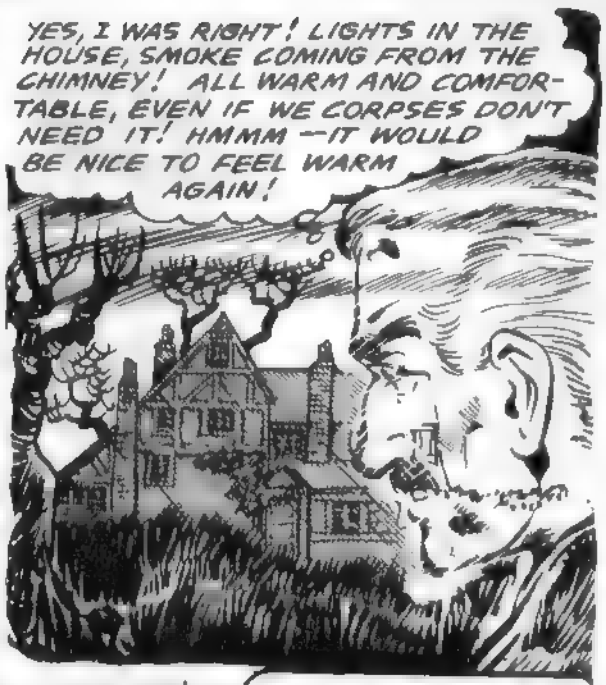
BUT I TELL YOU I'M INNOCENT! INNOCENT! I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE — I DIDN'T...

MAYBE! BUT THE LAW CAN'T RECOGNIZE GHOSTS! IF THERE EVER WAS A GHOST!

THE BODY OF HARRY GREEN IS LAID TO REST IN THE SAME GRAVEYARD WHERE CATHY AND SUE, HIS TWO WIVES, ARE BURIED! BUT HE DOES NOT REMAIN AT REST FOR LONG...

I CAN'T SLEEP! I MUST GO AND FIND THEM! THERE IS A STRANGE RESTLESSNESS IN ME! AND I HAVE THE POWER TO MOVE, TO WALK AGAIN!

SOMETHING IS CALLING ME BACK TO THE COTTAGE! I'LL GO THERE AT ONCE! AND, SOMEHOW, I THINK I KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO FIND!



HARRY GREEN ENTERS THE COTTAGE WHERE HE ONCE LIVED...

THEY COULDN'T DIE!

SHE WAS FLAWLESS... TO A POINT... BUT IT ONLY LED TO A HORROR THAT WAS WORSE THAN VIOLENT DEATH!

SOMETHING WRONG WITH EVERY GIRL! NOT ONE IS PERFECT! BAH!

JEREMY POSTON, WORLD AUTHORITY ON BEAUTY, JUDGES ANOTHER CONTEST...

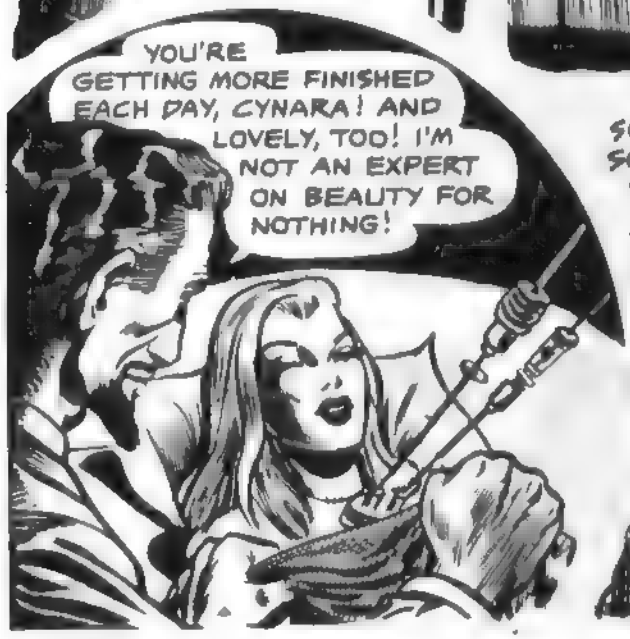
HE HARDLY SEEMS TO BE LOOKING AT THEM! LATELY HE ACTS SO BORED OR SOMETHING...

AND LATER...
TAXI...
AT LAST THAT STUPID CONTEST IS OVER! AND NOW TO GET HOME TO MY REAL WORK!

IF THE WORLD ONLY KNEW! I'VE GOT THE ONLY PERFECT WOMAN WAITING FOR ME!

ON HIS APARTMENT, JEREMY PRESSES A CONCEALED KNOB...
GETTING SO I HATE EVERY MINUTE I'M AWAY...

NOW TO SET THE MACHINERY TO WORK! THE HUM VIBRATIONS ARE LIKE MUSIC TO ME! MY SERENADE TO YOU, MY DEAR!


YOU'RE GETTING MORE FINISHED EACH DAY, CYNARA! AND LOVELY, TOO! I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON BEAUTY FOR NOTHING!

SOON YOU WILL LIVE! YOU'LL BE SO PERFECT NO ONE WILL EVER SUSPECT THAT YOU'RE ONLY A ROBOT, WILL THEY?

...ANOTHER WEEK OF FEVERISH WORK PASSED, BUT AT LAST THE TIME ARRIVED WHEN THE BEAUTIFUL ROBOT WAS READY FOR THE SUPREME TEST...WOULD SHE COME TO LIFE? WITH TREMBLING FINGERS POSTON THREW A SWITCH...
IF I'VE DONE EVERYTHING RIGHT, SHE SHOULD COME TO LIFE! SHE'S GOT TO...
...WHAT...IS... HAPPENING...TO... ME?... DO... I... LIVE?
I'VE DONE IT! LET ME LOOK AT YOU, CYNARA! HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE! PERFECT!
CYNARA... IS THAT MY NAME?
YES! YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, MY DEAR! BUT I WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING! YOU MUST BE FLAWLESS!
WHERE AM I TO... STAY?
WHERE INDEED! WITH ME, LOVELY ONE! WE'LL GET MARRIED! WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, EH?
MARRIED? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IT MEANS WE SHALL NEVER BE PARTED! I NEED BEAUTY AND YOU NEED ME, CYNARA!
YES...I NEED...

A FEW MONTHS AFTER THE FANTASTIC MARRIAGE, CYNARA MADE A STARTLING REQUEST TO HER STRANGE SPOUSE...
YOU WANT TO BE LIKE EVERY WOMAN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THAT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE YOU KNOW, MY DEAR!
YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING... TEACH ME TO BE A REAL WOMAN.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, CYNARA! I CAN'T! YOU ARE NOT HUMAN!
YOU MUST MAKE ME HUMAN!
FOR WEEKS CYNARA BROODED AND SCHEMED... THEN ONE DAY...
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! I MUST KNOW WHAT REAL HUMANS FEEL INSIDE!
HELLO. I SELL MAGAZINES AND...
COME IN. MY HUSBAND IS OUT JUST NOW, BUT I WILL LOOK AT YOUR MAGAZINES!
I'M ALL ALONE IN THIS STRANGE TOWN NICE OF YOU TO TAKE A SUBSCRIPTION...
YES... I WILL... I'LL TAKE ALL OF YOUR MAGAZINES... IF YOU'LL DO SOMETHING FOR ME...
I MUST KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE A HUMAN... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT... BUT WHAT I MEAN IS... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE A WOMAN... WILL YOU TEACH ME?
W-WHY, YES... I'LL TRY...

CYNARA NOW POSSESSED THE KNOWLEDGE THAT GAVE HER A NEW POWER... TO USE AS SOON AS SOMEONE SHE LOVED, LOVED HER... AND SO SHE WAITED, UNTIL ONE NIGHT, WHEN HER HUSBAND BROUGHT HOME A GUEST...

THE EVENING CERTAINLY HAS BEEN A PLEASURE, MRS. POSTON!

THANK YOU. COME AGAIN...

SO HANDSOME!

ALWAYS GLAD TO HAVE YOU OVER, BILL...

BILL HALL IS NICE—I LIKE HIM...

MY OLDEST FRIEND...

HMM... SHE'S CHANGING... I WONDER...

ONE DAY, INEVITABLY...

I LOVE YOU, CYNARA! WE'VE GOT TO TELL JEREMY ABOUT US...

NOT YET. I WILL HANDLE IT... SOMEHOW...

BUT HOW? HE WOULD DESTROY ME! OR WORSE... TELL BILL I'M ONLY A ROBOT...

AGAIN... INEVITABLY...

CYNARA! MURDER JEREMY? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

I AM. IT'S THE ONLY WAY. IF YOU LOVE ME YOU'LL DO IT...

WHAT CAN I SAY? YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE FOR YOU, AND THAT I'D DO ANYTHING, BUT...

TONIGHT... HE'LL BE ALONE...

THAT NIGHT...
THE WINDOW OPENED JUST AS SHE PROMISED! I WANT TO GET THIS OVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
THERE HE IS... WRITING SOMETHING! I MUST ACT QUICKLY OR I'LL LOSE MY NERVE...
BILL! I KNEW YOU WOULD COME, AND— OHHHHH—
CYNARA BELONGS TO ME! SHE MUST! I LOVE HER...
FUNNY... HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT EXPECTING ME! BETTER SEE WHAT HE WAS WRITING...
WHAT BILL READS TURNS HIS BLOOD COLD WITH HORROR...
NO! JEREMY MUST HAVE BEEN MAD! THIS IS.. FANTASTIC! YET HE WAS EXPECTING ME...
Dear Bill: I know you will try to kill me! I have watched Cynara and you! It's so horrible I don't care! She is a woman at all, Bill, but a robot! Prove it by —

I HEARD THE SHOT! YOU DID IT, BILL NOW WE MUST HURRY AND PLAN OUR STORY...
STORY! I'VE JUST LEARNED ABOUT IT... AND IT'S HORRIBLE!
I BELIEVE POOR OLD JEREMY! HE WOULDN'T HAVE LIED ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING... AND HE DIDN'T TRY TO STOP ME FROM KILLING HIM! YOU'RE NOT HUMAN!
T-THAT NOTE! HE TOLD YOU ABOUT ME?
YOU'RE A THING! A HORRIBLE THING, NOT A WOMAN! YOU MADE ME KILL MY FRIEND! YOU... YOU MACHINE!
UGHH... CAN'T MOVE... SOMETHING WRONG... I... RUNNING DOWN...
JUST AS JEREMY SAID!
I'LL LEAVE A NOTE AND EXPLAIN... IT MIGHT HELP SOMEONE SOMEDAY... I'LL WRITE HOW SHE RAN DOWN WHEN JEREMY DIED...
To whom it may concern:- Cynea Roston was a Robot. Her evil power made me kill her - and in shame I cannot face the world again... Bill
THE AMAZING TALE OF THIS WOMAN WHO WAS DEATH IN THE GUISE OF BEAUTY WAS TAKEN FROM THE VOODOO FILES. NAMES WERE ALTERED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE INNOCENT...
The End

JEFFREY WARING WAS A MURDERER — AND THOUGHT HIS SECRET WAS SAFE! THEN THE TERRIFYING NIGHTS BEGAN AND HE FOUND HIMSELF HOUNDED TO THE BRINK OF MADNESS BY THE DREAD **VOICE FROM THE TOMB...**

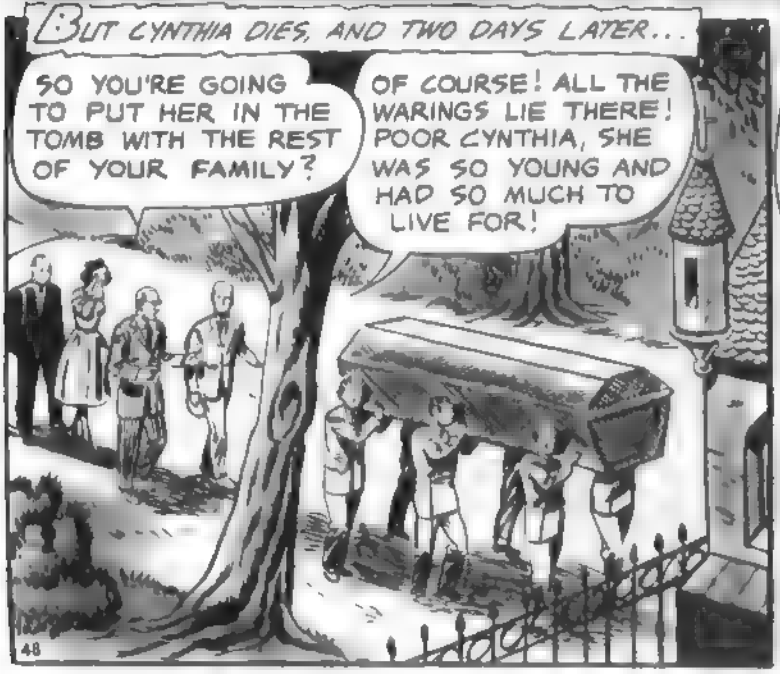
MADNESS of TERROR

SO THAT NIGHT...
SO YOU'RE AWAKE, CYNTHIA, DEAR! I'M SORRY—I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WATCH THIS!

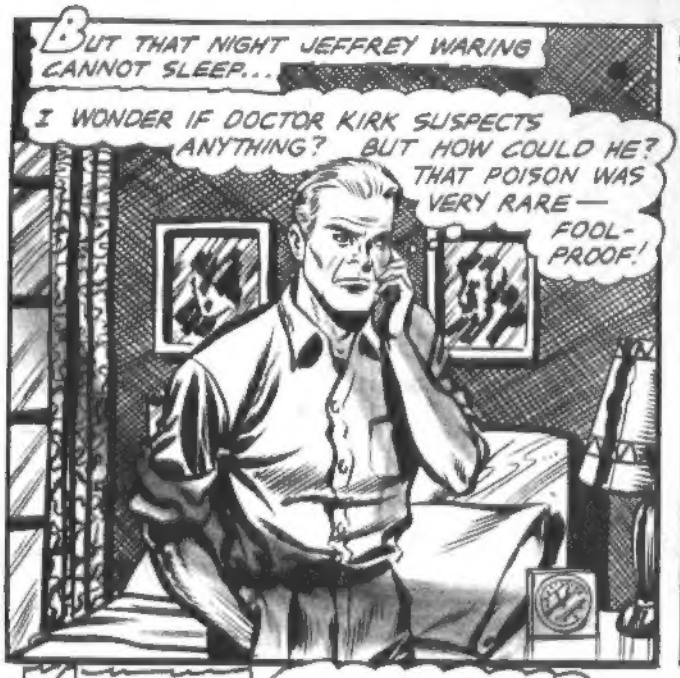
YES, CYNTHIA! IT'S POISON, A KIND IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE! AND YOU CAN'T SCREAM OR MOVE! IT'S ALMOST TOO EASY!

THERE! IT WILL BE OVER IN A MOMENT AND YOU'LL HARDLY FEEL IT! GOODBYE, CYNTHIA! I NEED YOUR MONEY!

SUDDENLY...
UHHHH— I— YOU— AHHHHHH...
HUH! Y-YOU CAN'T! YOU'RE PARALYZED! IT M-MUST BE THE REACTION CAUSED BY THE POISON!


BUT CYNTHIA DIES, AND TWO DAYS LATER...
SO YOU'RE GOING TO PUT HER IN THE TOMB WITH THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY?
OF COURSE! ALL THE WARINGS LIE THERE! POOR CYNTHIA, SHE WAS SO YOUNG AND HAD SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR!

AFTER THE FUNERAL...
I WAS SURPRISED AND DISTURBED BY YOUR SISTER'S DEATH, JEFFREY! I WOULD HAVE SWORN SHE WAS ON THE WAY TO RECOVERY!
A TERRIBLE BLOW, SIR! BUT IT WAS THE WILL OF FATE!


BUT THAT NIGHT JEFFREY WARING CANNOT SLEEP...
I WONDER IF DOCTOR KIRK SUSPECTS ANYTHING? BUT HOW COULD HE? THAT POISON WAS VERY RARE — FOOL-PROOF!

AND FINALLY HE YIELDS TO A STRANGE COMPULSION . . .
FUNNY THAT I SHOULD WANT TO VISIT THE TOMB! MUST BE MY NERVES, I SUPPOSE! BUT I MUST KNOW IF — CYNTHIA IS STILL IN HER COFFIN!

A THRILL OF TERROR RACES THROUGH HIM...
THE C-COFFIN! THE LID IS OFF! BUT I SAW THEM NAIL IT DOWN MYSELF!

S-SHE'S STILL HERE! THANK GOODNESS! BUT THAT STRANGE SMILE ON HER FACE— AND HOW DID THE COFFIN LID COME OFF?

MY IMAGINATION MUST BE PLAYING TRICKS! MAYBE THEY DIDN'T NAIL DOWN THE COFFIN! BUT THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE!

THERE, DEAR SISTER! NOW I KNOW YOU'RE SAFELY IN THERE! YOU AND THAT SMILE OF YOURS! YOU WON'T BOTHER ME ANY LONGER!

BUT JEFFREY WARING IS WRONG! ALL DAY THE WORM OF FEAR CRAWLS IN HIS MIND, AND THAT NIGHT AGAIN...
THIS MUST STOP! THIS TERRIBLE COMPULSION TO SEE CYNTHIA IN HER COFFIN! AFTER TONIGHT I'LL LEAVE THIS PLACE, TAKE A LONG TRIP!
EEEEE— N-NO! I—I NAILED THAT LID DOWN MYSELF LAST NIGHT! AND SHE'S— TRYING TO GET OUT!

I C-CAN HARDLY BEAR TO TOUCH HER! SO COLD! BUT I MUST! IF ONLY SHE WOULDN'T SMILE LIKE THAT!

MORE NAILS! BUT THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE! I—I'LL PUT ONE OF THOSE HEAVY TOMBSTONES ON THE COFFIN! THE ONES FATHER ORDERED AND NEVER USED!

THERE, CYNTHIA! LET ME SEE YOU GET OUT NOW! YOU'RE SEALED IN FOREVER!

BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY MORE CHANCES! I'LL LEAVE NOW— TONIGHT! MAYBE A TRIP TO EUROPE...

NOBODY CAN PROVE ANYTHING! MY NERVES ARE ALL SHOT, BUT A LONG REST WILL FIX THAT!

JEFFREY! OH, JEFFREY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
CYNTHIA'S VOICE! BUT NO— IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

COME, JEFFREY! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE! COME TO THE TOMB, JEFFREY!
IT— IT IS HER VOICE! COMING FROM THE TOMB!

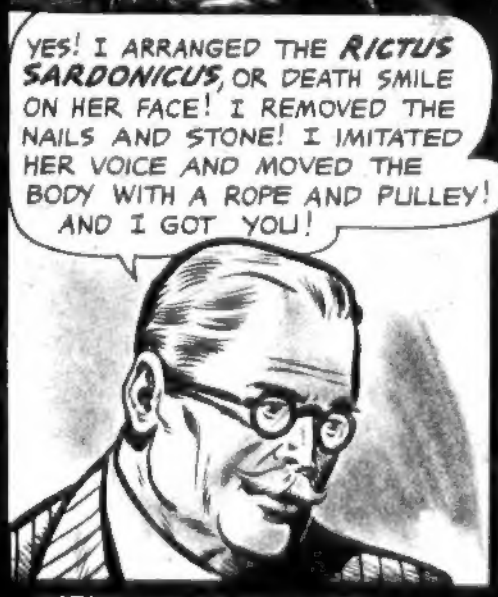
I'VE GOT TO KNOW! EITHER CYNTHIA ISN'T DEAD OR I'M SEEING AND HEARING THINGS! I'LL GO MAD!

GAAA— THE STONE DISLODGED! AND THE C-COFFIN IS OPEN AGAIN! B—BUT WHERE IS SHE?

THEN...
Y—YOU! CYNTHIA! YOU'RE NOT DEAD AT ALL! AAAAAAAA—

CYNTHIA! PLEASE — STOP SMILING LIKE THAT! LISTEN TO ME! I'M SORRY — I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL YOU! PLEASE — PLEASE...

NO USE, WARING! YOUR SISTER IS REALLY DEAD — AND WE KNOW YOU MURDERED HER!
YES, WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH!
DOCTOR KIRK! S-SO IT WAS A TRICK!


YES! I ARRANGED THE RICTUS SARDONICUS, OR DEATH SMILE ON HER FACE! I REMOVED THE NAILS AND STONE! I IMITATED HER VOICE AND MOVED THE BODY WITH A ROPE AND PULLEY! AND I GOT YOU!

NOT YET, YOU HAVEN'T! I'LL BEAT YOU AFTER ALL!
STOP, YOU!
GET HIM!

BUT JEFFREY WARING SLIPS AND...
NGAAAAAAAA—

JUST AS WELL, DOCTOR! SAVE THE STATE THE EXPENSE OF HANGING HIM!
AND FITTING, SOMEHOW, THAT A TOMBSTONE SHOULD KILL HIM!
The End